

DESERT QUEEN RANCH, GUEST HOUSE  
Joshua Tree National Monument  
Twentynine Palms Vic.  
San Bernardino County  
California

HABS NO. CA-2347-C

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Historic American Building Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### DESERT QUEEN RANCH--GUEST HOUSE (William F. Keys Ranch--Guest House)

HABS No. CA-2347-C

**Location:** Joshua Tree National Monument, Twentynine Palms vicinity, San Bernardino County, California.

**Present owner:** National Park Service; Joshua Tree National Monument.

**Present Occupant:** Unoccupied.

**Present Use:** Restoration of site; occasional summer tours.

**Significance:** The Keys Desert Queen Ranch in the Joshua Tree National Monument is an outstanding historical site of desert-based vernacular technologies displaying a range of architectural and engineering artifacts associated with the Euro-American era of settlement in the Mojave desert. The site is largely intact with nine buildings and four ore mills surviving. The guest house was built as a tent cabin for occasional tourists and friends.

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#### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

##### A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1937-38.
2. Original and subsequent owners: William Keys.
3. Builders, suppliers: William Keys.
4. Original plans and construction: tent cabin built from scavenged materials.
5. Alterations and additions: The cabin was later enclosed and roofed.

##### B. Historical Information

For more information on the Desert Queen Ranch, see HABS No. CA-2347.

The guest house, like most other mining-related cabins on the Keys Ranch, housed occasional tourists and friends. No one lived there for any great length of time.

**PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

**A. General Statement:**

1. Architectural character: Tent cabin with roof added later.
2. Condition of fabric: Very dry and fragile.

**B. Description of Exterior:**

1. Overall dimensions: 11'-11" by 14'-2"
2. Foundations: Wood joists on stone boulders at corners and wall centers.
3. Walls: boards of various widths. Upper half, including roof, was of canvas tent material, later replaced with scavenged wood board. Original lower wood portion 3'-3" high.
4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame.
5. Chimneys: Outside brace holding up stovepipe sections made of metal and clay pipe.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: One right-hand door with glass missing.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Six windows: four on the south wall are fixed (single lights) and two (two lights each) on the north wall slide up and down.
8. Roof: Gable, covered with remnants of tarpaper over roof boards.

**C. Description of Interior:**

1. Floor Plans: One room.
2. Flooring: 3" boards.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Exposed framing.
4. Hardware: Door hinges not mortised but exposed flat on the frame and stile; mortised lockset in door.
5. Heating: A heating stove (type undetermined) is present.

**PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

**DESERT QUEEN RANCH-GUEST HOUSE**  
**HABS No. CA-2347-C (Page 3)**

See Desert Queen Ranch, HABS No. CA-2347.

**PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION**

See Desert Queen Ranch, HABS No. CA-2347.

ADDENDUM TO  
DESERT QUEEN RANCH, GUEST HOUSE  
Joshua Tree National Monument  
Twentynine Palms Vicinity  
San Bernardino County  
California

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